

I have been a Girl Scout for 11 years. In Girl Scouts, we promise,
 "On my honor, I will try:
 To serve God and my country,
 To help people at all times,
 And to live by the Girl Scout Law."

A large part of being a Girl Scout is trying to help other people by following our promise and law. I have held true to my promise by giving my time and talents for the betterment of my community and church. By investing my time in community service and church activities, I am not only bettering my community, but I am also setting a positive example for others.

I strongly believe that the best leadership is leadership by example. The impact of one individual who sets a good example is amazing. It is important to me that I do what I can to better myself and the world around me by making positive choices. One person who develops a strong set of values and upholds themselves to high moral standards can make a positive influence on the lives of others. The power of a single individual who tries to be the best person he or she possibly can as they put their talents to work for the betterment of themselves, their work, and others is very impressive. By making positive choices in my own life, I am serving as a role-model for everyone around me. My service to America is setting a good example for others in the choices that I have made and the choices I will make in the future.

I am working towards the ultimate goal of being all that I can be by working hard towards my goals, showing respect towards others, and abstaining from destructive behaviors. These choices, among others, are permitting me to work towards becoming all that I can be.

I have challenged myself to be all that I can be. My service to America is not one of enlistment in the armed forces, but one that I hope will be beneficial to myself, my community, and this great nation.

FEDERAL JUDGES FOR FLORIDA ACT

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Judges for Florida Act that will provide seven additional federal district court judgeships in Florida.

The Federal Judges for Florida Act will provide five new judgeships in the Middle District of Florida and two new judgeships in the Southern District of Florida. These new judgeships are based on the recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Although the Judicial Conference has repeatedly recommended additional federal district judgeships for Florida, a new federal judgeship has not been created in the state since 1990.

The Middle District stretches 400 miles from Jacksonville to Naples and is broken up into five divisions: Jacksonville, Ocala, Orlando, Tampa and Ft. Myers. It encompasses three major metropolitan areas and 35 counties. The Southern District of Florida includes Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. These two federal judicial districts cover about 80 percent of the state population. The population of Florida is expected to continue to increase at a rapid pace, with over 20 million residents projected in 2025. Since 1990, the Florida population has grown by over 15 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the need for additional federal district judgeships in Florida is reaching a crisis point. For example, the Middle District of Florida has one of the heaviest caseloads per judge in the nation—ranking in the top ten for civil filings, drug cases, pending cases and total case filings.

The Middle District as well as the Southern District both have High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. Almost half of the criminal caseload in the Middle District is drug-related—reflecting the use of Florida as a conduit in drug trafficking and vigorous law enforcement efforts to combat it. The Middle District has been 50 percent higher in the number of criminal defendants per judge than the national average. The Southern District has conducted more criminal trials and had more criminal cases pending than most other district courts.

Our Federal District Courts are crucial in the fight against drug trafficking, terrorism, organized crime and fraud—we cannot allow them to operate at a disadvantage. We must respond to the crises facing the federal district courts and fulfill our congressional responsibility. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

DECLARATION OF POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss my support of H.R. 4, the Missile Defense bill. H.R. 4, declares that it is the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense system. The importance of this legislation can be found in its absence to declare the type of system to be created, the date of deployment and the location of the eventual system.

I believe that it would be dangerous to rush into deployment of a National Missile Defense (NMD) system without the development of appropriate technology. We must not stake America's national security on a system which has failed 14 out of 18 tests. This legislation does not mandate a date of deployment, which allows technology to advance so that when a successful NMD system is developed it can be deployed.

Additionally, I feel that compliance with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) II are far more important in our near future than deploying a limited national missile defense. And H.R. 4, does not threaten U.S. compliance by mandating the type of system or the number of interceptors necessary. I believe it is possible for a national missile defense system to complement deterrence, but only through compliance with the treaties already in place.

I am disappointed that the rule prohibited an amendment by my colleague Mr. ALLEN, which would have specifically addressed the issues of effectiveness and treaty compliance when deploying a NMD system. For this reason, I will oppose the rule and support a motion to recommit the bill with instructions to include this amendment. While I believe Mr. ALLEN's

amendment would have been a positive addition to this legislation, I do not feel it is necessary for my support. H.R. 4, by remaining silent on how, when, and where a NMD system will develop allows the Administration to negotiate our compliance with our treaties and for technology to advance so that an effective missile defense system can be deployed.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN AND ALBERT DEDENBACH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a very special couple, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dedenbach. This evening, April 14th, they are being honored as two of the Clinton Township Goodfellows of the Year recipients for 1997–1998 by community members and friends.

The members of the Clinton Township Goodfellows have contributed their time and resources to the betterment of the community for many years. Their goal is to aid the public in ways that other charities and the government could not. For the past nine years, the Goodfellows knew that they could count on Al and Evelyn to be there volunteering their time and talents to achieve these goals.

The Dedenbachs have been married for 58 years and have four children and six grandchildren. Al served in the Air Force during WWII and when the war ended, began working in the engineering field while Evelyn was busy taking care of a growing family. Volunteering is second nature to Evelyn. She has served in the local schools as a library lunch aide, read to the kindergarten children and was active with the Girl Scouts organization. When Al retired in 1981, they joined the senior group in Clinton Township and enjoy sharing many social activities together.

One of their greatest joys is working and helping the Goodfellows with charitable projects. Al and Evelyn have given to their community with spirit and dedication throughout the years. I would like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Dedenbach as they celebrate this auspicious occasion with family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LANCE CPL. BOBBY J. LAWRENCE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the heroism of a young United States Marine from my district whose selfless actions saved the life of a fellow Marine and embody the values of our U.S. Armed Forces.

Lance Cpl. Bobby J. Lawrence of Evart, Michigan, died tragically last Friday at Camp Pendleton in California.

He and Lance Cpl. James N. Jones Jr. of Pueblo, Colorado, were riding in a 12-ton truck when Lance Cpl. Lawrence realized the brakes had failed. To avoid plunging over a cliff after the emergency brakes also failed,